

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 172353
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 INR-07 INRE-00 CIAE-00
NSAE-00 /030 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:DEZWEIFEL:MAR
APPROVED BY NEA:ARDBAY
NEA/AFN:MKING (DRAFT)
NEA/IAI:AHUGHTON
EUR/SOV:PLYCURGIS
INR:BFLORA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 172353

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINS, EG, LY

SUBJECT: IMPLICATIONS OF EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN CLASHES

REF: ISTANBUL 2442

1. FOLLOWING AS YOU REQUESTED, ARE POINTS RE EGYPTIAN/
LIBYAN SITUATION YOU MAY WISH TO USE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH
FOREIGN LEADERS. INTEL SUMS ARE BEING FORWARDED SEPTEL FOR
YOUR INFORMATION ONLY.

2. AFTER BRIEF OVERNIGHT LULL, RENEWED FIGHTING BROKE OUT
AGAIN ON EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN BORDER MORNING OF JULY 22.
EGYPTIAN FORCES HAVE PENETRATED SHORT DISTANCE INTO LIBYAN
TERRITORY. NO FIRM ESTIMATES ON CASUALTIES.

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3. REGARDING IMPLICATIONS, SHOULD FIGHTING CONTINUE OR
ESCALATE, WE ANTICIPATE ARAB EFFORTS TO MEDIATE DISPUTE IN
INTEREST OF "ARAB UNITY". WE EXPECT MORE RADICAL REGIMES
(E.G. IRAQ) WILL WEIGH IN VOCIFEROUSLY IN DEFENSE OF
QADHAFI.

4. TROUBLE BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA HAS BEEN BREWING FOR SOME TIME. SADAT'S CONCERN ABOUT QADHAFI HAS IN RECENT PAST BEEN RELATED TO HIS BROADER CONCERNS ABOUT SOVIET

ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA. WE SEE THE PROBLEM AS BASICALLY SEPARATE FROM ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE AND WOULD NOT EXPECT MUCH SPILLOVER, PARTICULARLY AT LIKELY LEVELS OF CONFLICT.

5. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT SOVIETS WILL REFRAIN FROM ANY DIRECT INTERVENTION, ALTHOUGH THEY DISCREETLY WILL ENCOURAGE QADHAFI. MOSCOW ATTITUDE AND SUPPORT WILL BE MODERATED BY GREATER CONCERN FOR SOVIET ROLE IN OVERALL PEACE EFFORT. SOVIET REACTION TO DATE HAS BEEN RESTRAINED. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, COMBAT OPERATIONS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE172353
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DEZWEIFEL:MAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770263-0004
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770726/aaaaawbq.tel
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Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ISTANBUL 2442
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1768075
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMPLICATIONS OF EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN CLASHES
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, EG, LY, UR
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cecff264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009